



**Montana  
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Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

**opi.mt.gov**

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August 23, 2011

TO: System Test Coordinators  
FROM: Karen Richem, Assessment Specialist  
RE: English Language Proficiency Assessment

The enclosed memo is from the World-Class Instruction Design and Assessment (WIDA) Consortium which is replacing Questar as the provider of the 2011-12 Montana English Language Proficiency Assessment. WIDA will provide two ELP assessments:

- W-APT, a screening tool for newly enrolled students with limited English proficiency (LEP) to be administered at the time of enrollment.
- *ACCESS for ELLs*, an annual assessment for all students identified as LEP. The 2011-12 testing window for *ACCESS for ELLs* is planned for December 1, 2011 through January 27, 2012.

WIDA provides resources and training for administration of both the W-APT and *ACCESS for ELLs* on the secure WIDA web site referenced in the enclosed memo.

- An account to access the WIDA website and materials is required for each teacher who will administer the screener (W-APT) and/or the annual assessment (*ACCESS for ELLs*). Below are some important steps.
  - Test Coordinators create accounts for each person (test administrator =TA) who will administer one or both WIDA assessments.
    - To create those accounts, Test Coordinators will log in to the secure site and choose “ACCESS for ELLs Training Course Account Creator” and follow the steps to create an account for each test administrator in your system.
  - Training courses on the WIDA website are required for all teachers who will administer the assessments. The courses include quizzes. A score of 80% or higher indicates understanding of the processes.
  - The online training takes approximately two to four hours, depending on which areas you must complete and may be completed in one sitting, or in as many sessions as necessary, ideally within one to two weeks of when you will be administering the test.

It is recommended the training for the W-APT be a first priority as it is the screener to determine if a student is LEP.

If you need guidance about which students will need to take the W-APT, please contact Karen Richem at 406-444-0748 or [krichem@mt.gov](mailto:krichem@mt.gov).

More information about WIDA is at the following sites:

OPI Assessment ELP page: [http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/#p7GPc1\\_11](http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/#p7GPc1_11)

WIDA web site: <http://www.wida.us/>

JUMP, OPI Online Assessment Newsletter, May and August 2011:

[http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/#p7GPc1\\_4](http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/#p7GPc1_4)